Golfing on the Links of Life

GOLFING ON THE LINKS OF LIFE.

1 Sam.16:17 Provide me a man that can play well.

INTRO. Only in a restricted sense is Sunday any longer a day of rest and worship. It has been changed into a day of travel and recreation, so much so that the churches of America face a grave problem.

Play is a vital part of life. By means of play tired minds and sluggish bodies are renewed. It not only affords recreation of body and mind, but sportsmanship is a splend id preparation for business and politics and home life. Shakespeare declared life to be a stage and the people to be the actors. A modern Shakespeare would say that life is a game.

The Apostle Paul was familiar with the games played in his day, and in his letters to the churches he speaks of the crown of victory to be won by the contestants, and of the races that were run.

Since Golf has had such a wonderful season, and since Miniature Golf has become popular, let us, for a bit, compare life to the game of golf.

Text- Read.

I. Similarity of setting and background.
The fairways with their distant goals.
The hazards and the ups-and-downs
To play either game requires skill and experience,

II. One must learn to become a good player of golf.

The poor player is usually the one who knows but little while he thinks he knows it all. He shuns instruction.

The best players are always looking for points of improvement.

Bobby Jones, the Ace of Golf, says," In Golf, possibly more than in any other game, we must always keep before us the fact that human beings cannot be infallible. A Golfer must always make provision for retrieving mistakes after they are made, as well as for avoiding as much as possible, situations which are conducive to costly error."

In the game of Life no one of us is infallible. We need instruction. We need to correct our mistakes and avoid making them over again.

We need to master the rules of the Gam game. The Bible.

We need to learn from the Master Teacher. The world finds no fault in Him. If we would heed his words, we would pla the game of our lives better. "Thou shalt love the Lord, thy God, with all thy heart, with all thy soul, and with all thy strength, and with all thy mind; and thy neighbor as thyself."

If we all obeyed this instruction of the Master of Life, how much better and happier woulf this old world be!

III. In Golf One must drive straight, Must guard against toping, slicing and numerous other faults.

III. The golfer seeks to get his distance and direction carefully.

In life what we need is distance in living and direction in endeavor.

Causes of failure to aim straight

Over-anxiety

Not standing correctly(slouching)

Not keeping one's eye on the ball. -on life, on the game

Or not following thru.

How many lose out because they stop too soon, do not follow thru!

IV. Golf must be played in the face of obstacles. Hazards- the rough, the bunkers, the sandtraps

Life full of hazards, obstacles in the way

Life is a play against odds; a constant challenge. We must play hard to win.

I like the man who faces what he must
With step triumphant and a heart of cheer;
Who fights the daily battle without fear:
Sees his hopes fail, yet keeps unfaltering trust,
Sees God is God, but somehow true and just.
His plans work out for mortals, not a tear
Is shed, when fortunes, which the world holds dear,
Falls from his grasp, better with love, a crust,
Than living in dishonor, envies not
Nor loses faith in man, but does his best,
Nor ever mourns over his humbler lot,
But, with a smile and words of hope, gives zest;
To every toiler, he alone is great,
Who, by a life heroic, conquers fate.

(Sarah K. Bolton.)

IV. The Golfer is ever seeking a better final score. Knowing what it is, he is constantly striving to reach it.

He bears it in mind every step of the way. Bobby Jones continued: "When playing a hole, the difficulty of the second shot depends largely upon the success of the first, and that of the third, as much upon the result of the second. Do we not many times strike out in blind hope or fury without giving a thot to the burden we are likely assuming for the next shot?"

God wants to aim for perfect score, ever seeking to better our previous scores.
"Be ye therefore perfect even as your Heavenly Father is perfect."

We must rise above our low scores and above our failures and short-comings.
In order so to do, we must take instruction, drive straight, overcome obstacles, carry on thru to the end, ever seeking a perfect score.

If, in the realm of sport this is necessary, how much more in the Game of Life?

Saul called for a musician, "Give me a man who can play well." In sport, in business, in all life, as well as in music the demand is the same-provide me a man who can play well.

Both God and the World demand men and women who can play well.
On such does the Kingdom of God depend, upon those who with patience, practice and persistence are prepared to play the game.

Those who play well according to the principles of Jesus Christ.

Whether on the golf links or on the links of life, we all have need of God in our life playing. God needs the life and service of every one of us.

If we will take our instruction, drive straight, overcome obstacles, and ever aim for the perfect score, we shall never need to fear to meet God face to face. Christ stans by our side always ready to help us play the game right, to help us make a perfect score, to play a better game.

This is the real Golf, not the miniature kind. The person who will so play lives the Brave Life, of which Grantland Rice speaks:

I do not know what I shall find out beyond the
final flight;
I do not know what I shall meet beyond the
last barrage of night;
Nor do I care—but this I know—if I but serve
within the fold
And play the game—I'll be prepared for all the
endless years may hold.

On to the skyine, faint and vague, in that Far
Country, all must know,
No law or crown may wait beyond the sunset's
glow;
But life has given me the chance to train and
serve within the fold,
To meet the test—and be prepared for all the
endless years may hold.